

1. Using Technology to Support Teaching and Learning

Available Online Beginning Wednesday, **December 8, 2010** after 1 p.m. ET

Educators are increasingly turning to technology for information and resources to help provide educational and support services for all students. While much of the information and resources available are appropriate for all students, special educators in particular are looking for evidenced-based programs and supports to assist them in teaching the diverse population of students that require their help. This conference will feature selected resources that are readily available free of charge. It will also demonstrate how virtual mentoring can be used to support teachers.

Presenters:

Joanne Cashman

Director, IDEA Partnership National Association of State Directors of Special Education

Phoebe Gillespie

Director, Personnel Improvement Center, National Association of State Directors of Special Education

Steve Luke

Director, National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, Academy for Educational Development (AED)

2. Special Education Teacher Evaluation: Issues and Answers

Available Online Beginning Wednesday, **January 12, 2011** after 1 p.m. ET

The evaluation of teachers, including special education teachers, has become increasingly important as teachers are held accountable for student performance. At the same time, many special education teachers are assuming new roles such as co-teaching, coaching and supporting general education teachers and related service personnel. This conference will address the issues of special education teacher evaluation, including time attribution and measures such as student performance. Data from a National Center for Teacher Quality study will be presented to give examples of practices across the nation.

Presenters:

Lynn Holdheide

Special Education Research Associate, National Center for Teacher Quality (NCTQ), Vanderbilt University

Tony Bagshaw

Managing Director of Human Capital, Battelle for Kids

3. Common Core Standards: What They Mean for States and Schools

Available Online Beginning Wednesday, **March 16, 2011** after 1 p.m. ET

The National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) have led an effort to develop national voluntary common core standards for K-12 in English/Language Arts and Math. The standards were released in June, 2010, and more than half of the states have already agreed to adopt them. In this conference, representatives from the NGA and CCSSO will discuss the standards, the adoption process, how states will use them and specifically address what the common core standards mean for special education.

Presenters:

Dane Linn

Director, Education Division, National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices

Gene Wilhoit

Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)

4. Virtual Special Education: Issues and Answers

Available Online Beginning Wednesday, **May 4, 2011** after 1 p.m. ET

Technology is having a tremendous impact on special education in many ways. One trend that is developing quickly is teaching special education via virtual delivery systems. While virtual special education has been successful, there are many issues that must be addressed. This conference will feature the successful North Carolina Virtual Public School. Compliance and accountability issues including the implementation of the special education process in the virtual environment will be discussed.

Presenters:

Bryan Setser

Executive Director, North Carolina Virtual Public School, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Mary Watson

Director, Exceptional Children Division, North Carolina